



**United States Border Patrol
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Narcotics and Gun Seized by Border Patrol Agents

San Clemente, California - Three men, one armed with a concealed weapon, smuggling narcotics and drug dealing paraphernalia, were apprehended by Border Patrol agents at the San Clemente checkpoint late last night.

Agents noticed the three men acting unusually when they were stopped for inspection at the checkpoint at 11:50pm. After questioning the men and a canine sniff of the vehicle, agents discovered 20 small heat-sealed bags of marijuana, bulk containers, and weighing and packaging equipment. While searching the suspects, agents also discovered a loaded .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol and spare loaded magazine. Registration forms and a conflicting rental agreement found in the vehicle indicated that two different rental companies, both of which denied ownership, owned it.

Also found was a military-style duffel bag containing clothing and a vehicle registration belonging to an individual listed as a missing person. Record checks revealed that one of the suspects was a parolee known to have left with that individual.

The suspects, weapons, and narcotics were turned over to the San Diego County Sheriff's Office.

In a separate incident Friday morning, agents working in Campo apprehended an individual smuggling 225 lbs. of marijuana from the border area. Horse mounted agents were called to assist in locating the suspect when he abandoned his vehicle and fled on foot towards Mexico. He was arrested a short while later hiding in a bush. The suspect and marijuana, packed in bulk sugar bags and valued at more than \$78,750, was turned over to agents from Operation Alliance.

Border Patrol agents in San Diego sector have seized over \$1.25 million worth of illegal narcotics since October 1st.

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Video footage of the 11/16 seizure available.